

July 14, 1975

PRESS RELEASE NOTICE

SUBJECT: PANEL DISCUSSION
DATE: JULY 19, 1975 SATURDAY AFTERNOON
PLACE: P.U.S.H. AUDITORIUM, 930 E. 50th STREET, CHICAGO
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
ADMISSION: FREE
SPONSORED BY: DECEMBER 4th COMMITTEE

PANELISTS: DANIEL ELLSBERG
HOWARD SAFFOLD
THOMAS TODD
ELAINE BROWN
FLINT TAYLOR

MODERATOR: LU PALMER

ALSO:

JULY 18, 1975 FRIDAY EVENING 7:30 P.M.

PANEL DISCUSSION

941 W. LAWRENCE AVE, CHICAGO PEOPLE'S CHURCH

PANELISTS:

RENAULT ROBINSON
ELAINE BROWN
FLINT TAYLOR

On November 3, 1975 the civil rights lawsuit brought on behalf of the families of Fred Hampton, Mark Clark and seven former Black Panthers goes to trial in front of U.S. District Court Judge J. Sam Perry. For the past year and a half, pre-trial discovery in this case has proceeded against Edward Hanrahan, the police raiders, and the F.B.I. Through this discovery, and through related revelations in other investigations, it has been discovered that the F.B.I. through a highly paid agent-provocateur, William O'Neal, set up the raid, and after the Gang Intelligence Unit of the Chicago Police Department turned the raid down, convinced Hanrahan's office to implement the assassination. This was aided by a detailed floor plan sketched by O'Neal and his F.B.I. agent Roy Mitchell, a floor plan which targeted the bed on which Hampton was later left murdered in a pool of blood. The F.B.I. passed this floor plan on to Sgt. Daniel Groth, and Richard Jalovec the chief architects of the raid from Hanrahan's States attorneys police. Armed with this floor plan and other information from O'Neal and the F.B.I., the raiders poured 100 bullets into the apartment at 2337 W. Monroe St, during the early morning hours of December 4, 1969.

Other F.B.I. documents have revealed that the F.B.I., at the express direction of J. Edgar Hoover, had implemented a plan called COINTELPRO, in the late 1960's, a plan which was in full force and effect in Chicago on December 4, 1969. This plan called for the neutralization and disruption of black militant groups including the Black Panthers, and directed the F.B.I. to prevent the rise of a messiah "who could electrify and unify the Black masses"-- a leader such as Fred Hampton was becoming in late 1969. This plan further directed the F.B.I. to enlist the aid of local law enforcement agencies

such as the Intelligence Division and the State's Attorney office in order to implement the plan.

In the past six months, moreover, further revelations have established that Military Intelligence, the F.B.I. the States Attorney's police and police intelligence, had sources of informants masquerading as members or friends of Fred Hampton and the Chicago Black Panthers. These informants not only gathered information on their targets, but entered into disruptive, illegal, and provocative acts--such as O'Neal's building of an electric chair to "intimidate informants." Likewise, it has been shown that the F.B.I. had a wiretap on the Black Panther offices, and sources report that the Party offices and the offices of their attorneys were burglarized by agents of the law. The Rockefeller Report on the C.I.A. has established that Jerris Leonard, the Justice Department attorney who led the "whitewash" Federal investigation of the murders of Hampton and Clark,--was the head of a massive federal intelligence gathering operation which included representatives from the Justice Department, Army, Navy. and Air-Force Intelligence, the Secret Service, the F.B.I., and included a secret liaison with the C.I.A.'s domestic spying operations-(Operation Chaos).

The same Jerris Leonard who announced in Spring of 1970 that Edward Hanrahan's raiders were not criminally liable for the murderous raid, was in November and December of 1969 meeting with the highest echelon of government officials and analyzing the most efficient ways to stop "individuals and groups who make the urban ghetto their base of operation." But the story of the past six months is so much the story of the continued attempts of Hanrahan and the Federal Government to continue to cover-up the "who's and why's" of this

assassination. Although, the existence of literally scores of informant informants has been discovered during the past year, the defendants refuse to reveal their identities, or allow the survivors to discover what counterintelligence activities these informants were involved in concerning the raid. Likewise, discoveries have shown that files at the Secret Service, concerning this case, and at the State's Attorney's Office have been lost, misplaced and destroyed. But perhaps the most shocking element in this case has become the Judge himself. He has refused to allow the plaintiffs to discover who chief raiding officer Daniel Groth's informant was, even though Groth admits that his informant helped plan the raid and was in the apartment just prior to it. The judge refuses to allow the plaintiffs to discover whether any of them are or were police agents. These denials become more significant when it is remembered that an independent autopsy showed that Fred Hampton had a large amount of seconal in his blood--a sleep inducing drug most likely planted by an informant. The judge has further denied the plaintiffs access to documents which establish the contours of the F.B.I. COINTELPRO Program here in Chicago. He has allowed the defendants to censor intelligence documents turned over to the plaintiffs' attorneys so that they are practically useless. He has slapped a muzzle on the survivors' attorneys--ordering them not to reveal the contents of the documents to anyone--not even the plaintiffs themselves ! All of these moves by the Judge, done in concert with Hanrahan and the the Federal Government, effectively blocks the public's right to know the truth about the Hampton assassination.

The panel convening at P.U.S.H. Auditorium on Saturday, July 19 intends to be a public discussion about the events of December 4, 1969,

and the resultant cover-ups which continue to this day. The December 4th Committee feels that the murder of Fred Hampton was a domestic assassination , master-minded by the F.B.I. , much in the same way the C.I.A. assassinated leftist leaders throughout the world. The terminology, tactics, and end results of these assassinations and counterintelligence operations are shockingly similar. The panel hopes to draw on the expertise of the panelists in analyzing the interrelationships of Federal and State intelligence and counter-intelligence activities. Daniel Ellsberg is an authority on this governments' crimes in Vietnam, and when he moved to expose them, he became subject of the Nixon administrations' repression apparatus at home. He is also an expert on cover-up and government secrecy, issues which arise whenever the people demand to know where the government's bones are buried. Thomas Todd, was a young black U.S. attorney in the Chicago U.S. attorney's office when Hampton was murdered. He demanded an independent investigation of the murder but, was shunted aside by Jerris Leonard and his crew, and was ultimately fired for his attempts in trying to prevent a Federal cover-up of the murders. Elaine Brown, presently the Chairperson of the Black Panther Party, will discuss the repression against the Panthers from the perspective of someone who lived and struggled against it. Howard Saffold , President of the Afro-American Patrolmen's League, will look at the issue of police spying both as one spied upon, and as a former member of the Intelligence Division's Panther Squad. Flint Taylor, one of the attorneys for the Hampton family, will discuss the recent revelations in the Hampton lawsuit and its connection to the issues of political assassination, repression

and police spying, The panel will be moderated by Lu Palmer, noted commentator and personality, who has continuously followed the events concerning the Hampton-Clark murders since December 4, 1969. The panel is sponsored by the December 4th Committee, a committee which is dedicated to publicizing the truth about the Hampton-Clark murders and to raising funds for the continuation of the suit.

The NAACP has lent considerable support to the lawsuit and NAACP lawyer, Herber O. Reid, together with attorneys from the Peoples Law Office will present the case in court beginning on November 3, 1975. While Hanrahan's private lawyers have been paid over \$150,000 of taxpayers' money to continue the cover-up, the plaintiffs' attorneys and their support committee survive on whatever you contribute-- So please help in any way you can.

DECEMBER 4th COMMITTEE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION --PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE